

UP TO SPEED

March/April 2018

Greater Illinois Region/CCCA

<http://GIRCCCA.com>

"Let's go for a ride"

M. Blevins, editor



Inside

Director's Message, Charles W. Nash, and more

Message from the Regional Director

Hello everyone.

Did you get a good taste of spring recently? We had our first outing courtesy of our newest director Mary Ellen Thielemann. If you weren't able to go you missed a good one. Don't despair however, we have plenty of other great events coming up this year. I invite you to not miss our next one; The Sanfilippo museum stands as one of the great treasures of coin operated machines and music in the world. After that we will be going to check out some collections on the garage tour. The details are to come but we know the date will be May 13th.

What you don't want to miss is this year's 50th anniversary of the Father's Day show at Oak Brook mall. This will be a treat for all classic car lovers; as a promise, you'll see more true Classics this year than you've seen recently.

In July we'll be looking forward to our annual picnic at a new location - the Blackwell Forest Preserve.

I'm also happy to announce that we will be attempting to strengthen our ties with the Packard club as well as the AACA. It only stands to reason that we look for ways to work together.

We all know we only have so many days of summer. So get your calendars out and start making plans to attend one or more of these events this season.

CORDially,
Russ



Jay Quail at the Classic Car Club display, Chicago Auto Show

GIR/CCCA 2018 Events

March 24 - San Filippo, Place de la Musique

April 11-14 - CCCA Annual Meeting: Branson, MO

June 3 - CCCA Museum Experience and MI Grand Classic: Hickory Corners, MI

May 13 - Garage Tour - Details TBA

June 17 - 50th Annual Father's Day Car Show Oakbrook Center

July 22 - GIRCCCA/ PCA picnic - Blackwell Forest Preserve - Mack & Williams Rd, Wheaton. Details will be forthcoming.

August 26 - Geneva Concours d'Elegance - Geneva, IL

Oct 20 -210 - Fall Tour - save the date! It will be special

Other 2017 Events of Note

March 10 - 11 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

May 19th - 3rd annual Art & The Automobile Palos Park, IL contact Daniel J. McCarthy 312-209-8080 danieljmccarthy@gmail.com

May 20 - Cars & Cops - judged car show, with pre-war class. Collectors Car Garage, 2500 W Bradley Place Chicago, IL 60618. 773-902-1200 or 312-952-3102 burt@ccgchicago.com

June 2 - 5th Annual Glen Ellyn Vintage Car Fest 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. The featured car will be the Chrysler Airflow owned by Tom Kleinschmidt and Mark Smith (our December Dashboard cover car).

July 19 - Palos Heights - 5 - 9pm. HUGE car show with special area for Grand Classics. Info & Registration: Bob Starzyk 708-334-4848 56buick@att.net

August 26 - Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance

Cover Photo: (courtesy Chuck Derer)

The photo may be from 1976 but the reaction from show-goers remains the same. People LOVE the Grand Classics!

In case you have not heard, Reuben and Emily Taylor skidded on an icy patch and ended up in the hospital. You can read Reuben's letter on the next page. We are all so very grateful it was not worse than it was.

Editor's Corner



I just couldn't resist sharing this photo from Chuck Derer's archives. The outfit is so classic '70's! Just looking at it queues up the song 'Stayin' Alive' in my head.

I'm kind of hoping he'll show up at this year's show - wearing that same outfit.

If anyone has photos from the very first Oakbrook Fathers Day Show, we would love to see them. Or maybe you still have that Dashboard issue that covered it. By all means let me know. It's always fun to look back. Isn't that one of the reasons we are all in love with these cars?

- *Maureen*



Correction: An incorrect date was given for the Fathers Day Show in the previous issue. Please make note of the correct date. Your editor apologizes for any confusion and thanks those eagle eyed readers who pointed out that Fathers Day is always on a Sunday.

Board Notes: January and February meetings were both dedicated to firming up plans for our 2018 programs. Some dates and event locations were finalized and more ideas were discussed for this year's Fathers Day Show at Oakbrook. The Board is working hard to make the 50th truly special.

Also discussed was the importance of keeping the website updated and current, and the impact of our Facebook page.

From The Mailbag

On the way to the Sandwich, IL Opera house Sat Feb 17 at about 5:45 PM Reuben skidded his 1998 Lexus SUV from an icy patch in the road into a tree.

Tree is fine. SUV is totaled. Emily and Reuben need repairs.

Both were sent to ICU at Rush Copley Medical Center, 2000 Ogden Avenue, Aurora, IL 60504.

Emily has been treated for concussion, neck compression, internal bleeding, lung damage and leg and shoulder bruises. She finally talked Thurs and has been more alert and coherent Fri and Sat. Eats little and only when fed. Sat in chair for a few hours each of the last three days, but had to be airlifted between bed and chair.

She was moved to ortho neuro unit this afternoon because her vitals are good. However, she needs lots of encouragement to get inspired. Nursing staff, visitors and I are all trying to get her to accomplish deep breathing plus hand and foot movement. No timetable.

Reuben has four cracked ribs, a broken sternum, (is that a naval term I missed?), a damaged psyche, and a sore body. Was discharged Mon nite Feb 19. Plans to resume work and driving this week.

Reuben is extraordinarily grateful that his dog Lucky wasn't along.

Calls to Emily not recommended because it's a hassle for the nursing staff.

Reuben

A rare vintage car that once belonged to Amelia Earhart went missing but was found three days later parked on the street in a Los Angeles neighborhood. Earhart's 1932 Hudson Essex Terraplane was reported stolen on a Friday and was recovered the following Monday after a viewer tip was given to LAPD .

Acquaviva

GIRCCCA's first outing of 2018 took place on Sunday, February 18. It was a very foggy morning in the Western Suburbs but the atmosphere inside the restaurant was warm and inviting. Jim Wheary recounted the history of Charles Nash's career in the automobile industry with a photo slideshow. The event was attended by 42 car enthusiasts. Several guests who are collectors attended and we hope that they join us as members. After the luncheon, guests were invited to tour a vacant 12 acre Geneva property that featured an automobile salon with Italian marble floor emblazoned with the Ferrari race logo and radiant heat.

James Wheary is one of three great grandchildren of Charlie and Jessie Nash who knew and spent quality time with them as a child.

"These are very special memories in my life and my Mother named Jessie Mae, who was their oldest Granddaughter, after Nannie (Jessie) Nash" said Mr. Wheary. The children were mentioned in articles and photographed on their grandparents laps at the Motors, taking rides in Nash Cars, and even going to the proving grounds.

Mr. Wheary is a seasoned executive who has been active in business for more than 50 years. He is currently Capital Campaign Executive Director and Major Gifts Chairman, and also Professional Services Advisor for Racine Heritage Museum – Racine, WI; Senior Consultant to Kenosha History Center – Kenosha, WI, and also consults with other 501(c) 3 and Non-Profit organizations. He is a Member of the Nash Car Club of America and Contributing Writer for The Nash Times – Worldwide. Most recently he's the Producer & Presenter of the Nash Power Point Slide Show Presentation entitled The History of Charles W. Nash & Nash Motors "The Greatest Rags to Riches Story in American Automobile History."

The reviews are in and here are a few of the comments attendees had about the program: "Thank you for making an otherwise dreary February day a really bright and fun day with your outstanding Multi Media Nash Presentation encompassing how powerful your Great Grandfather was in the formation of the Greatest Automobile Industry of our Country." "It was truly a treat to be taken back into time and regaled in the stories of some of the Titans of the Automobile Industry." "Nash was so much bigger than Life....His devotion to Philanthropy was especially impressive and interesting."



(left) James Wheary with a couple of photos of Nash Autos.



At right Russ Rodriguez and James Wheary prepare the slide show presentation

Acquaviva



Paul Safransky and John Brayton



Wilma and Bill Morris



Chuck and Penny Derer



Patt Barrett (right) and guest



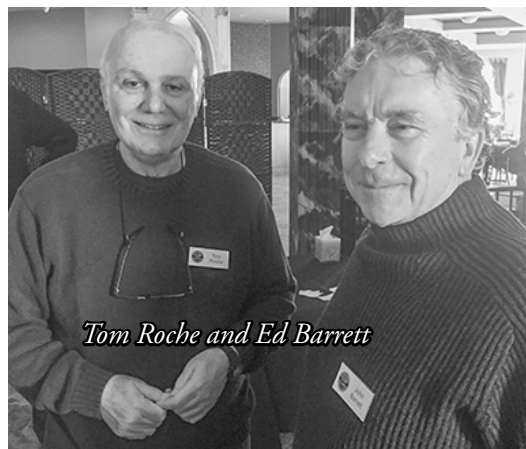
Stephen and Sally Stryers



Paul Callaghan



Ed Villwock



Tom Roche and Ed Barrett



Mary Ellen Thielemann

Many thanks to Mary Ellen Thielemann, event coordinator for putting together a great afternoon of a fine dinner and interesting program, and to Charles Falk for the photos.

Members in attendance: Patt & John Barrett, Charles & Joan Falk, Tom & Jean Roche, David Kerr, Bill & Wilma Morris, Paul & Cheryl Callaghan, John & Dawn Brayton,, Chuck & Penny Derer, Ed Villwock, Bob Mills, Steve & Sally Stryers, Greg and Cheri Haack, Wayne Jorgensen, Paul Safransky, Russ Rodriguez, and Mary Ellen Thielemann, guests Norman, Carl, and Sue Becker, and Maureen Fosbinder

Nash Motors



C. W. Nash

Charles W. Nash was born to a poor farming family in Cortland, IL on what is now Rt 38 - Lincoln Highway. His parents separated when he was 6 and he worked as a farmhand in Michigan as an indentured servant that was to last until he was 21. He had only three months of schooling per year while he was "bound out" to perform farm chores. At age 12, Nash ran away and became a farmhand in Michigan where he learned carpentry. After his marriage to Jessie Halleck they moved to Flint, Michigan, and in 1890 Nash was hired by William C. Durant of the Flint Road Cart Company, which later became the Durant-Dort Carriage Company.

Durant hired Nash for \$1 per day as an upholstery stuffer. Within six months, he was promoted to superintendent of the factory and within 10 years became vice president and general manager. Nash introduced the straight-line belt conveyor into the assembly of carriages. By 1910, the chief business of Durant-Dort was building automobile bodies for the Buick unit of General Motors.

W.C. Durant, president of the new General Motors Corporation found himself short of both capital and skilled management and brought Nash to Buick to oversee production. Nash became vice-president of Buick in December 1910. In late 1912, Durant was fired by General Motors and Nash became the corporation's president. Within three years, Nash had restored GM organizationally and financially due to his strategies of getting rid of unprofitable products, streamlining manufacturing and consolidating small production units into larger ones. He also set up an International sales and export division in New York City. Nash was forced out of GM in 1915 by Durant, who had again taken over the corporation.

Vowing never to work for General Motors again, in 1916 he purchased the Thomas B. Jeffery Company in Kenosha, WI and renamed it Nash Motors. Jeffery's best-known automobile was the Rambler whose mass production from the Kenosha plant had begun in 1902.

The 1917 Nash Model 671(nc) was the first vehicle produced to bear the name of the new company's founder.

In 1924 Nash absorbed LaFayette Motors and converted its plant to produce Ajax(nc) automobiles, a car of exceptional quality for its price. Sales however, were disappointing. Changing the car's name to "Nash Light Six"(nc) in June, 1926 sales improved. In an unusual move, Nash Motors offered all Ajax owners a kit to "convert" their Ajax into a Nash Light Six. Supplied at no charge, the kit included a set of new hubcaps, radiator badge, and all other parts necessary to change the identity of an Ajax to that of a Nash Light Six. Done to protect Ajax owners from the inevitable drop in resale value when the Ajax marque was discontinued, most Ajax owners took advantage of this move. "Unconverted" Ajax cars are quite rare.



Nash 1930 Series 490
photo courtesy John Trotta, nashnut.com



Nash Special Cabriolet Designed by Count Alexis de Sakhnoffsky.
20 of them were built, but only 11 were sold.

In 1937, Nash Motors merged with Kelvinator, a leading maker of refrigerators, to become Nash-Kelvinator. During WWII, Nash-Kelvinator temporarily stopped producing automobiles and consumer goods, expanding instead with military contracts for aircraft engines, propellers, and other materials.

Charles W. Nash retired in 1945 to California where he died in 1948 at the age of 84.

Sanfilippo "Place de la Musique"

Saturday, March 24

Please Arrive at 1 pm for our

1:30 pm tour

We have received a special group rate of

\$30 per person

789 Plum Tree Rd - Barrington, IL 60010

The 2000 sf Sanfilippo "Place de la Musique" is known worldwide for its magnificent collections of beautifully restored antique music machines, phonographs, arcade and gambling machines, chandeliers, art glass, street and tower clocks, steam engines and other functional mechanical antiques, all displayed within a breathtaking French Second Empire setting. Also in this collection are the world's largest restored theatre pipe organ (8000 pipes!), and the most spectacular European salon carousel in existence.

Reservation deadline is March 17

Contact Bob Starzyk 708-334-4848

if you have not yet made your reservation

<http://bortzautocollection.com/>



YOU DON'T HAVE TO OWN A CLASSIC CAR

to be a member of The Classic Car Club! All you need is an appreciation for these fine automobiles. We encourage everyone to join us on our tours and events no matter what you drive. Not everyone owns a Classic, but everyone can join the fun!

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